

**Summary of Council Comments on the Delta Plan Amendment for
Conveyance, Storage Systems, and the Operation of Both from the
May 25, 2017 Delta Stewardship Council Meeting**

At the May 25, 2017 Council meeting, staff presented a revised discussion draft Delta Plan amendment regarding Conveyance, Storage Systems, and the Operation of Both (CSO amendment) and received feedback from Council and the public. The comments are grouped by theme and by the Council Member commenting.

1. Council Member Tatayon suggested the CSO amendment should address concerns related to the effects of new Delta conveyance on groundwater in the Delta.

Staff Response: Recommendation I.B.2(i) on page 29¹, which defines the items that should be considered in detailed project implementation plans for new Delta conveyance, was amended to include a new item, as follows: “(v) Effects on local surface water and groundwater supplies during construction”

2. Council Members Weinberg, Damrell, and Thomson suggested recognizing legacy communities in the Delta and incorporating protections for legacy communities in the recommendations.

Staff Response: The amendment was modified as follows:

- *In the Problem Statement (page 17), legacy communities are referenced in the text, a definition (consistent with that in the Delta Plan) is provided in a footnote, and Delta Plan recommendation DP R3 (which encourages planning for the vitality and preservation of legacy communities) is referenced.*
 - *Recommendation I.B.2(i) on page 30 was amended to read “Project implementation plans should consider and protect the unique character and historical importance of legacy communities...”*
3. Council Member Weinberg also inquired whether effects on water quality were adequately addressed in the CSO amendment.
 - *Staff Response: The recommendations include stipulations to avoid or minimize adverse effects on water quality for a variety of uses (environmental, municipal, agricultural), including temporary effects on water quality during construction of new conveyance in the Delta. Delta Plan performance measures include provisions for monitoring and*

¹ Unless otherwise referenced, all page numbers refer to the June 2017 draft Delta Plan CSO amendment Attachment 2 of the June 22, 2017 Council Meeting Agenda Item 5 materials

assessing water quality in the Delta. In addition, the following recommendations were added:

- Recommendation III.B.1(a)(iv) on page 38 was added to read “Avoid or mitigate adverse effects on agriculture in the Delta, including identifying salinity targets suitable for the types of crops grown in the Delta”.
- Recommendation III.B.1(a)(v) on page 38 was added to read “Protection of the quality, reliability, and affordability of water supplies for communities relying on impaired water supplies, including disadvantaged communities, consistent with California Water Code section 106.3”. This same language was added as Recommendation III.D.2(e) on page 41.

Council Member Thomson expressed concern that reduced reliance on the Delta and improved regional self-reliance were not addressed through the CSO amendment.

Staff Response: The draft language includes numerous references to, and provisions for, reducing reliance on the Delta (22 references) and improving regional self-reliance (10 references). The draft language describes the relationship between the CSO amendment and other existing provisions of the Delta Plan, including those related to reducing reliance on the Delta and regional self-reliance (see pages 5-7). For example, the amendment notes:

- Further, operational and infrastructure improvements [related to CSO] need to progress together and in coordination with other actions identified in the Delta Plan, such as those related to restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem, improving water quality, achieving greater regional self-reliance and reduced reliance on the Delta, and reducing risks to people and property. (page 5)
- “This draft amendment should be read in tandem with the Delta Plan, including Delta Plan requirements to reduce reliance on the Delta and increase regional self-reliance (see regulatory policy WR P1 and recommendations WR R4 and WR R18), and with the Delta Plan’s guidance regarding more natural, functional flows for the ecosystem (see regulatory policy ER P1, recommendation ER R1, and page 134 of Chapter 4).” (Page 7).

The amendment also notes the role that improvements to conveyance, storage systems, and their operations could play in advancing efforts to reduce reliance on the Delta and improve regional self-reliance. For example:

- *Page 9 states: “Conflicts in the use and timing of water movement through the Delta for multiple purposes could be more easily addressed by*

improved water conveyance and storage infrastructure with greater capacity and operational flexibility, combined with investments in regional self-reliance as cited throughout the Delta Plan”.

- *A section titled “Reduced Reliance on the Delta” is included in the Problem Statement, beginning on page 13.*

Recommendations in the amendment also reference reduced reliance on the Delta and improving regional self-reliance:

- *Recommendation II.A.2 on page 32 promotes opportunities to store stormwater and recycled water supplies as a strategy for improved regional water management and reduced reliance on the Delta.*
- *Recommendation II.B.1(b) on page 33 proposes that new or expanded storage projects in the Delta, its watershed, or its export area should contribute to regional self-reliance and reduced reliance on the Delta. A definition of regional self-reliance (consistent with that provided in the Delta Plan) was added as a footnote, for clarity.*
- *Recommendation II.B.3(a) on page 34 proposes that new storage in the Delta export area should contribute to reduced reliance on the Delta and regional self-reliance and, particularly during dry periods, through storage of available water supplies during wet periods for use during dry periods.*
- *Recommendation III.A.4 on page 37 proposes that new or improved conveyance facilities outside of the Delta should reduce reliance on the Delta and promote regional self-reliance.*
- *Recommendation III.D.2 on page 40 proposes that the State, in allocating funding for new water conveyance and conveyance improvement projects outside the Delta that support regional self-reliance, give preference to projects with various characteristics, including reducing reliance on the Delta (specified under item (a)).*

Proposed performance measures related to the CSO amendment also address reduced reliance on the Delta and improving regional self-reliance. For example, see Agenda Item 10, Attachment 1, PM 3.4.

To further convey that the CSO amendment recommendations are to be interpreted in connection with the other provisions of the Delta Plan (such as reduced reliance on the Delta and improved regional self-reliance), language was added to the Recommendations statement that the CSO amendment contains “...a suite of actions to be collectively pursued in an integrated manner with existing Delta Plan policies and recommendations.” (Page 25) No other changes to the amendment were made.

4. Council Member Thomson commented that the Delta as a Place was not emphasized in the CSO amendment

Staff Response: The Delta as a Place is described and its importance discussed in numerous locations throughout the Introduction and Problem Statements (see pages 2, 3, 7, and 18). The Delta as a place is also reflected in the recommendations. For example:

- *Recommendation I.B.1(j) states that new or improved conveyance projects in the Delta should evaluate “The potential effects of each Delta conveyance alternative on the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.”*

The Recommendations section (page 24) was amended as follows: “To develop a robust water management system that provides flexibility to adapt to changing conditions, conveyance should be integrated and operated in tandem with enhanced water storage in the Delta watershed and the Delta export area to optimally achieve the coequal goals while protecting and enhancing the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.”

5. Council Member Thomson expressed concern that the amendment emphasizes dual conveyance over other options, including storage and operations.

Staff Response: The draft amendment describes conveyance, storage systems, and the operation of both as part of a “broad and integrated portfolio of actions described in the Delta Plan” (see page 4). The amendment was modified in two locations to further emphasize this point and that the recommendations are to be collectively pursued:

- *The Introduction (page 7) was amended to include, “The Delta Plan includes a portfolio of strategies to achieve the coequal goals, and this amendment adds to this portfolio by promoting improvements to water conveyance, storage systems, and the operation of both.”*
- *The Recommendations section (page 24) was amended to read, “To develop a robust water management system that provides flexibility to adapt to changing conditions, conveyance should be integrated and operated in tandem with enhanced water storage in the Delta watershed and the Delta export area to optimally achieve the coequal goals while protecting and enhancing the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place. Sections I, II, and III contain a suite of actions to be collectively pursued in*

an integrated manner, alongside existing Delta Plan policies and recommendations.

Conveyance recommendations (Section I) are listed first in the amendment not because they are the primary recommendations or the central focus of the CSO amendment, but because this order is consistent with the language of the Delta Reform Act. (See Water Code section 85304.) The recommendations portion of the CSO amendment contains roughly equal text dedicated to promoting options for conveyance, storage systems, and the operation of both. About six pages of the recommendations relate to conveyance, five pages relate to storage systems, and six pages relate to the operation of both, reflecting a balance among the three components.

6. Though not related to any particular comment from the Council, the amendment was also modified to include definitions for key terms, consistent with definitions provided in existing statute or in the Delta Plan and cross-references to Delta Plan content.